

When Mr
Tommas 9
TELEPHONE 55.
TELEGRAMS:
"KING'S HEAD, CIRENCESTER."
M. F. Bacon
you truly
M. F. Bacon

il/p/ncen35

King's Head Hotel,
CIRENCESTER.

ap 26

1920

Mr Bacon
and his family
Oxford

Dear Miss Mason
This is a very hilly country for
a motor car to struggle with.
but some of these schools of
the household's have got the
root of the matter in them
I was this morning to the
Painswick school ^{about 100 girls} which has been
using your one that for 2 years
Miss Kirkland is a very pleasant
sensible & ladylike business trip
she comes from Leicester & after

30 years & more. She had got so tired
of the apparently useless methods of
teaching that she thought she could
be no longer but now she
is ready to do another 30 years.
She has a ^{young} chosen teacher & another
kindly but not very efficient & her children
though taking an evident delight in their
work did not learn well but she is new
to the work & will improve. The little girl
nearly 7 yrs old was a remarkably good-
looking lot of children & in the very
nice manners. To the 2 older
ones who had lately begun to read the
I went into the omnibus through the play
& they were moved by the trial
scene & the Carrots (Garden)
Lamented for the good fun, & they both
lamentations over his lost jewels also.
Mrs K said nothing would induce any of the

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teaches to pack ¹⁹
 the old one that - & this
 they all say & say with emphasis
 she showed some Dolls about as
 big as week old babies which the
 kids had dropped. Making all the
 clothes themselves and even making
 the kinds of kink sateen (or sateen which is it)
 & both fingers & toes were
 beautifully done with the little
 pink toenails which Swintburne
 professed to adore but he does
 not speak convincingly to my mind
 after 12 he had a dreamy next

4 11 p4 pneu 35

Mr Ramsey went a "conferencing"
but I had to sit & "thole" it.
In the afternoon school day
not open till 2.

This was at the Mixed School
at Stroud Uplands. When
there are about 230 boys & girls.
A very able & earnest man
is the head, one E. H. Smith.
He speaks with no uncertain sound
of the extraordinary influence ^{on the children} in
all they do ^{of} which the teaching by the
humanities exercises, everything
they take up even the needlework
shows it. I read several papers
of the same just finished
a boy of $7\frac{1}{2}$ had written an excellent

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account of what led up to
 the attack by Spain &
 the armada & the whole fight.
 B. of 8½ expressed himself
 so clearly & with such good
 language that his work might
 have been taken for that of a
 lad of 14 and the writing
 was quite excellent. As for the
 content, I saw the boy who
 looked very bright but pretends
 that he can't narrate. Sky I suppose
 the Mrs. Smith is one of the best

Sorry to see this
piece thing ! we will rep

in to p 6

one another
sheet



6

11 p 7 p m 35

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When we could have
 had to make the matter
 so. He has been 2 years
 at it but must have been
 in advance of most of his
 fellows before he took it up.
 I read to his upper classes at
 the Church of Venice, and
 he was away before he
 came on here having
 left Gloucester this morning
 Some time ago to 2 small schools

a few cents put in Mr
Horn to I think it would
encourage them. They have already been
agreed using the system.

Then I visit a big girl school
the Waterman School in Cincinnati
& go far away to Oxford.

Mr K. at Paniswick asked the
girls if they knew who to send a
message of me to you & all
the hands went up at once &
they sent you 2 or 3 nice messages
& thanks which I feel sure you
will be glad to have & to know
that they really appreciate what
your mother has done & is doing
for them.

7 Royal Crescent, W. 22nd 12 p 1 p m 35
May 6. 1920.

My dear Lady Campbell,

You are much in our thoughts.
Baths are very pretty just now but in
your middle trouble, & we wish you
support & help, & the personal help
which always comes in along the
road!

As for things here you are well.
Lillian gave an excellent address
the first day evening, & up at the
Chapel next morning & showing you
showed us, & old Charles & Lillian
spoke most interestingly about St. Hilary
& all she had done for education
& her own spot.

Miss Parish's arrangements for next
are perfect, & she is my chief
spot. Only about 100 children
have come, & the whole atmosphere
high delightful & entirely different
from that of the last year, & all.
They were better than the last year, & all.

Last night we had the greatest
feet of all in the magnificent paper
from Miss Felling & Miss Felling

learn from Philadelphia. She
 was a simple plain woman from
 the South & modestly dressed. who
 stood up & gave the very best
 exposition of P. U. E. U. teaching
 we ever heard. The warmth
 of her heart & the appearance
 afterwards was tremendous. I
 felt as if you had been with her.
 you would have clapped! How
 unpeakable delightful to have
 such a paper from a quiet com-
 fortable student. If she had been
 asked in Australia for years she
 could not have been better!
 Mr. Briffle too, the husband from
 Dublin who came after his wife
 also knew quite well what he was
 talking about & fully appreciated
 what the P. U. S. had done for his
 recovers.

Yours truly
 with love
 affectionately yours
 Helen C. C. C.

P.S. I have not
 yet received
 your letter
 of the 10th

Gloucestershire Education Committee.

Uplanda C. School,
 Stroud.
 May 12th 1920

Dear Miss Kitching,

The teachers of the schools in Glo. working by Mrs. Maxon's methods & to her programmes are having a Conference in the Shrine Hall on June 12th next.

Mr. Household is undertaking the task of organising & arranging the proceedings, & it is arranged that I should read a paper on the Geography as studied in all the forms. This is a

13p2 pnew 35
subject in which many
feel that some alteration,
both in amount of matter
& a re-grouping of pages
might with advantage be
made.

You will appreciate
that I have undertaken a
task of some size. But I
must do it thoroughly, &
you may rest assured that
iconoclasm will not be
motif of my theme. I do
not feel that it is at all
necessary to take up a
destructive critical attitude.
Besides, if I did, I
should make a hard fight
to preserve the integrity of
the expositions as a whole.

Gloucestershire Education Committee.

School,

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I am making an analysis, not only of the work as arranged per term, its continuity etc., but also of the subject matter.

In reading the preface to Bks. I & II Mrs. Mason says that "children should go through the Book wise" (Bk I) and, "they should be ^{able to} ~~be~~ ^{answer} all these questions after the second reading." (ii) Mr. Hornsby & I were discussing that point this week & we each had the same thought. That it was, apparently, a contradiction

1374 2799 35
to Mrs. Mason's contention
that once reading was
sufficient, & that revision
was unnecessary.

I should like Mrs.
Mason's authoritative
opinion, & personal
explanation of that point,
so that I may be in a
position to answer any
formal objection, & to set
apright a waverer.

Then in Bk III, Mrs.
Mason states that "this
book is designed to afford
a three years' course of
reading for children between
eight & eleven, or nine & twelve"
and that "Bk. II should
afford the second weekly
lesson". In our programmes
I cannot find Bk II prescribed
in conjunction with Bk III.

Gloucestershire Education Committee.

Form II A ¹⁹¹⁴
in 37th

can cover Book
III

School,

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The year's study of Bk. III by Form II A does not cover the whole of the study of England from that Book.

I point out this, not in any spirit of flippant criticism, but as showing that there are grounds for doubt, if not alarm, in the view of many teachers.

De, in state schools, have not the same freedom for elasticity of treatment as in Home Schools or Private Secondary Schools.

But I hope to be able to effect some re-arrangement & submit the same to the

13 p 6 pncu 35
consideration, first of
the Household, & secondly
to the Conference, in my
paper.

I hope that you
may be able to give me
some further information
on the points I've raised,
and if Miss Mason has
anything to say on the subject
of Geography which I could
pass on to my fellow workers,
I will gratefully receive it.

Yours truly,
G. H. Smith

P. S. I had an interesting
visit from Mr. W. F. Rawley
a fortnight ago.

Gloucestershire Education Committee.

School,

19

Dear Mrs. Thatching,

Since writing the first letter I have thought of something else which I have intended to ask for a long time.

Do you have a school, of your own at Buckleigh, I believe. Would you please tell me the average age of the children working in Forms i B, i A, ii B, ii A, iii, iv (these are the forms in which I work in my school).

If you have no forms in the lowest grade, probably you know the average of those forms in which I work.

schools.

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I have an idea that the difficulties experienced in some of the smaller schools in Glo. are the result of a wrong classification. I am not a believer in classification by age purely. I'm too much of a heretic for that. If Jany Jones, 10 yrs old, can hold her place & do the work of 12 year old Mary Brown & 13, then Jany must be fellow laborer.

But Miss Maxon's programmes prescribe more work of a higher standard than the syllabuses usually issued by heads or local h. p. t. w. And I feel that some re-adjustment of standard is necessary.

I hope I am not a nuisance but Miss Maxon knows best.

Yours truly,
G. H. Smith